actually a lake and the nation's principal fresh-water supply. The only note of hope to be found was that piranhas, as natives of Brazil's warm waters, might not survive the winter.
Israel's tabloids, which love anything to do with carnage, splashed what they dubbed "pira-noia." Maariv ran a two-page spread headlined "Piranha Panic." It featured full-color promotional posters form the horror flicks Piranha and Piranha 2.
Questions abounded. Were these fishy fugitives from an aquarium? Pawns of a foreign power? Would Israel demand a crackdown by Yasser Arafat? Hopes that winter might kill the invaders, biologists said, might be foiled by the Galilee's numerous hot springs.
The Galilee's fishermen did their best to hype the fish, apparently dreaming of rich new markets. Crowds of shoppers in the Tiberius market bid hundreds of shekels (more than $100) for one of Ezri's catch.
But all sensations must come to an end, and this one finally died at the hand of Daniel Golani, fish detective. Someone from the Agriculture Ministry tracked down the ichthyologist on a field trip in Eilat and pleaded with him to rush back to Jerusalem Tuesday night.
Wednesday morning, an icy sample landed on Golani's desk.
The teeth were all wrong. Piranha teeth look like "little blades," the better to tear meat. The teeth on the sample were sharp and strong, but they were made to cut through plants and nuts.
It wa no piranha, Golani said. It was a common picu, a distant cousin also from Brazil. A vegetarian. Source: Barton Gellman, Washington Post Dispatch, December 18, 1994 via COUD-I.

DOG AND WHALE IN LOVE: There's an interspecies friendship between a wild beluga whale named Wilma and a pet Siberian husky named Rocky, in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. Jim Johnson, owner of a bed and breakfast operation, is responsible. Johnson, an underwater photographer, made friends with Wilma. When Rocky met Wilma for the first time, Rocky became excited and jumped into the water and the two began communicating audibly and nuzzling. In video footage, the two appear to be exchanging greetings and smooching. The whale makes high-pitched noises and the dog makes his own, completely absorbed with each other. Source: Toronto Sun, January 16, 1995.

BRITISH JET HAS "?" ENCOUNTER: A British Airways jet had a close encounter with a fast-moving UFO, it has been claimed.
The British Civil Aviation Authority on January 18th launched an inquiry into the incident after the pilots reported a brightly-lit triangular object hurtled towards them before veering off.
Air traffic control informed them there were no other planes in the area.
Initially the pilots did not lodge a report for fear of being ridiculed.
The Boeing 737 - heading for Manchester from Milan on January 6 with 60 people on board - was flying over the Pennine Mountains when it was "buzzed" by the objects.
CAA spokesman Chris Mason said suggestions the object was a UFO were "purely speculative".
Near-miss incidents often "turn out to be air balloons or small private aircraft," he said. Source: Melbourne, Australia Herald Sun , January 19, 1995.

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